

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-07 MC-02 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /067 W
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P R 251124Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2794
INFO SECDEF WSHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4674

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS
SUBJ: US ARMS SALES POLICY AND TOM JONES VISIT TO
IRAN

REF STATE 115406 (DTG 200135Z MAY 77)

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TOM JONES OF NORTHROP IS COMING TO
IRAN EARLY IN JUNE. THE F-18L WAS NOT MENTIONED WHEN
EMBASSY INFORMED OF JONES TRIP, PURPOSE OF WHICH WE ARE
TOLD RELATES TO GOI INTEREST IN CONTRACTING OUT SUPPORT
SERVICES AT KHATAMI AIR BASE (F-14S). JONES EXPECTS
TO HAVE AUDIENCE WITH SHAH.

2. IN LIGHT OF THIRD POINT OF NEW US ARMS SALES POLICY
PROHIBITING "DEVELOPMENT OR SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS
OF ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEMS SOLELY FOR EXPORT", AND
REFTEL PARA 9 POINT, WE ASSUME WASHINGTON WILL TALK TO
JONES PRIOR TO HIS TRIP ABOUT PROBABLE IMPACT OF NEW
POLICY ON F-18L.

3. AS TO POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACTING OUT KHATAMI
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SUPPORT SERVICES, APPARENTLY THREE OR FOUR US
FIRMS WILL BE ASKED TO TENDER BIDS, BUT NORTHROP
SEEMS TO BE LEADING CONTENDER. BASIC CONTRACT WOULD
BE WORTH BETWEEN 300 AND 400 MILLION DOLLARS AND WOULD
RUN FOR FOUR YEARS. INTENSIVE TRAINING OF IRANIANS
TO TAKE OVER SUPPORT ROLE WOULD OCCUR TOWARD END OF
THAT PERIOD, AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ADDITIONAL TWO

YEARS, SO THAT AT END OF SIX YEARS SUPPORT WOULD BE HANDLED ENTIRELY BY IRANIANS. ASSUMING PROJECT IS SUCCESSFUL IIAF WOULD AIM TO DO SAME THING AT ADDITIONAL THREE BASES.

4. IT WOULD BE USEFUL ALSO TO DISCUSS WITH JONES NEW POLICY AS IT RELATES TO SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT IDEA. THIS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO US SINCE ALTHOUGH IT WOULD INVOLVE SERVICES (EXCLUDED UNDER POINT ONE OF NEW POLICY) IT WOULD ALSO LEAD TO INCREASE IN NUMBER OF AMERICANS SERVING ABROAD FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME IN RELATION TO ARMS TRANSFERS (CONTRARY TO PRESIDENT'S INTENTION AS STATED IN PARA FIVE OF REFTEL). AT SAME TIME ONE COULD CONCLUDE THAT ANY INCREASE IN AMERICANS AS RESULT SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT AT KHATAMI LINKED TO WEAPONS SYSTEM ALREADY DELIVERED OR IN PIPELINE (F-14S), AND THEREFORE ASSOCIATED AMERICANS NOT TO BE AFFECTED (CONCLUSION OF REFTEL PARA FIVE POINT NOTED PREVIOUS SENTENCE).
MIKLOS

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